

## AMENDMENTS

### Listing of the Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all previous listings or versions thereof:

1. (Previously presented) A method for suppressing sickle cell disease comprising exposing a globin-producing cell to a ferritin-H such that the cell absorbs the ferritin-H.
- 2-10. (Canceled)
11. (Withdrawn) A method for treating sickle cell disease comprising:  
suppressing the expression of adult  $\beta$  globin genes in globin-producing cells with ferritin-H or a derivative thereof.
- 12-18. (Canceled)
19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the ferritin-H binds to the promoter region of a  $\beta$  globin gene.
- 20-21. (Canceled)
22. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising ferritin-H.
23. (Canceled)
24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the globin-producing cell is exposed to the ferritin-H *in vivo* by injecting the ferritin-H into bone marrow.
25. (Presently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the globin-producing cell is exposed to ferritin-H *ex vivo*, which globin-producing cell is subsequently transplanted into bone.

26. (Withdrawn) A method of treating sickle cell disease comprising transforming globin producing cells *ex vivo* with a vector comprising a gene sequence encoding ferritin-H or a conservatively modified variant thereof and subsequently transplanting the cells into bone marrow.
27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the globin-producing cell is an erythroid precursor cell.